Closure of Looms

*772. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'The silent looms of Papparpatti Weavers' published in the 'Indian Express' of 4th May, 95 and if so, what are the details thereof and whether Government are aware of the sufferings of the weavers all over the country because of dearth of yarn;

(b) the state-wise number of looms that have closed in 1994 and 1995 so far and the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the number of handloom weavers who have been rendered jobless because of difficulties in the availability of yarn in Uttar Pradesh and the steps taken to help them; and

(d) whether Government have conducted any study or survey of difficulties faced by the weavers; if so, when and what are the salient point thereof and if not, whether Government will undertake such a study to help the weavers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. The news-item captioned 'The silent looms of Papparpatti Weavers' indicated the problems faced by the Handloom weavers of Tamilnadu due to scarcity of yarn. However, the problem faced by the Handloom weavers is not the non-availability of hank yarn but rise in its prices.

(b) The Government of India does not have access to the data on the number of looms closed in the year 1992 and 1995 due to the decentralised nature of the industry. The Government of India has also not received any specific complaints indicating circumstances leading to closure of looms.

(c) While there can be seasonal mismatch between requirement of yarn of specific counts and types at a particular place or time, there is no overall shortage in availability of yarn leading to unemployment in the handloom sector either in Uttar Pradesh or in other States.

(d) A Census of Handlooms at the national level covering inter alia certain data on the socio-economic aspects of handloom weavers was conducted through the State Governments and the National Council of Applied and Economic Research (NCAER) during the year 1987-88. This Census covered the loomage, number of persons engaged in the handloom industry, productivity etc.

Bad debt of Banks

*773. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bad debts in the portfolios of Nationalised Banks have risen to 30,000 crores;

(b) the details of the actual figure of bad debts;

(c) whether it is a fact that defaulters have been advanced hundreds of crores after they were declared defaulters; and

(d) the details of the exact figures of such types of advances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that according to prudential norms banks have to classify their assets into standard, sub-standard, doubtful and loss for the purposes of making provisions. Reserve Bank of India has further reported that loss assets are those assets which have been identified as such by the banks or their internal or external auditors or by the RBI inspection but the amount has not been written off wholly or partly. Such loss assets of nationalised banks as reported by them

to RBI work out to Rs. 2326.42 crores as on 31st March, 1994. This constitutes 2.18 per cent of the total assets of nationalised banks as on 31st March, 1994.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the data on the amount of fresh/additional loan/advances granted by the banks to the defaulting borrowing companies/firms in the year 1994-95 is yet to be collected by the RBI.

Introduction of some schemes by LIC and GIC

*774 SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LIC and GIC propose to introduce to introduce group insurance, fire insurance and old age pension scheme in the country;

(b) the role of private firms, both Indian and foreign, in implementing the said schemes; and

(c) the reaction of Government in allowing foreign insurance firms in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c):

Already group insurance, superannuation, and fire insurance covers are being provided by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC).

The LIC operates a variety of group insurance schemes to cover employees, members of Cooperative Societies, Associations of Professionals, and persons belonging to the weaker sections of society etc. The LIC also provides pension to the members of superannuation funds of employers approved under the Income Tax Act, 1961. The GIC operates, on group basis, schemes such as Personal Accident Security Scheme and medical insurance Schemes. These group covers are for insurance on 'personal lines'.

Fire insurance is a traditional cover offered by the GIC to industrialists, private individuals, and societies, to cover their properties against fire and allied perils.

As per the existing insurance laws, transaction of both life insurance and general insurance business in the country is the exclusive privilege of the LIC and the GIC respectively, and no private firm, Indian or foreign, can transact such insurance business.

Films certified by the Censor Board

*775. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the number of films certified by the Censor Board during the year 1994-95, language-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) maintains statistical data on a calendar year basis. The number of Indian feature films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification during 1994 and during 1-1-95 to 31-3-95, languagewise, is as follows:—

S.No.	Language	No. of Indian featurefilms certified in 1-1-1994 during	1-1-1995 to 31-3-95
1	Telugu	174	45
2	Hindi	135	32